

Serial No.: 09/841,693

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

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1-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method of treating oil comprising the steps of:

a) transporting a source of oil to a treatment station, said treatment station including at least a filter system, said filter system being capable of continuously extracting particulate materials from oil and removing ~~said extracted particulates~~ particulate materials from the filter system,

b) supplying said oil at a predetermined flow rate to said filter system and extracting particulate materials of at least a predetermined size, and

c) transporting said oil from said filter system ~~for reuse,~~
the method further comprising the steps of detecting if any objects which will not pass through said filter system are within said oil prior to supplying said oil to said filter system and shutting down operation of said filter system if any such objects are detected.

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22. (currently amended) The method of treating oil as set forth in claim 21, wherein said step of extracting said particulate ~~material~~ materials includes separating said ~~particulates~~ particulate materials from said oil and deoiling said separated particulate ~~material~~ materials prior to removal from said filter system to reduce the amount of oil retained in said removed particulate ~~material~~ materials.

23. (currently amended) The method of treating oil as set forth in claim 21, further comprising the ~~steps of:~~ step of removing from said oil particulate material above a predetermined size prior to supplying said oil to said filter system.

24. (currently amended) The method of treating oil as set forth in claim 21, further comprising the ~~steps of:~~ step of comminuting particulate material above a predetermined size in said oil prior to supplying said oil to said filter system.

25. (currently amended) The method of treating oil as set forth in claim 21, further comprising the ~~steps of:~~ step of introducing a predetermined amount of a treatment material into said oil prior to supplying said oil to said filter system.

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26. (previously presented) The method of treating oil as set forth in claim 25, wherein

said treatment material introduced into said oil is selected from the class consisting of diatomaceous earth material, fuller's earth material and activated carbon material.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) The method of treating oil as set forth in claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

detecting if any clogging of the ~~supply of cooking~~ source of oil occurs and shutting down operation of said filter system if a predetermined amount of clogging is detected.

29. (new) A method of treating used cooking oil, comprising the steps of:

a) transporting used cooking oil from a frying apparatus to a treatment station, the treatment station including at least a filter system,

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b) supplying the used cooking oil to the filter system at a flow rate of between 10 and 40 gallons per minute and extracting particles at least as small as 25 microns in size from the used cooking oil, and

c) transporting the used cooking oil from the filter system and back to the frying apparatus.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the step of extracting particles includes separating the particles from the used cooking oil and deoiling the separated particles.

31. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of removing particles above a predetermined size from the used cooking oil prior to supplying the oil to the filter system.

32. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of comminuting particles above a predetermined size in the used cooking oil prior to supplying the oil to the filter system.

33. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of introducing a treatment material into the used cooking oil prior to supplying the oil to the filter system.

34. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the treatment material is selected from the group consisting of diatomaceous earth material, fuller's earth material, activated carbon material, and combinations thereof.

35. (new) A method of treating used cooking oil, comprising the steps of:

- a) transporting used cooking oil from a frying apparatus including a plurality of frying systems to a treatment station including at least a filter system,
- b) supplying the used cooking oil to the filter system and extracting particles at least as small as 25 microns in size from the used cooking oil, and
- c) transporting the used cooking oil from the filter system and back to the frying apparatus.

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36. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of extracting particles includes separating the particles from the used cooking oil and deoiling the separated particles.

37. (new) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of removing particles of a predetermined size from the used cooking oil prior to supplying the oil to the filter system.

38. (new) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of comminuting particles above a predetermined size in the used cooking oil prior to supplying the oil to the filter system.

39. (new) The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of introducing a treatment material into the used cooking oil prior to supplying the oil to the filter system.

40. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the treatment material is selected from the group consisting of diatomaceous earth material, fuller's earth material, activated carbon material, and combinations thereof.